

4/20/81

# Council on Hemispheric Affairs

AQ 084

R

Chauncey A. Alexander,  
Chairman  
Rabbi Morton M. Rosenthal,  
Treasurer

Laurence R. Birns,  
Director

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chauncey A. Alexander,  
Executive Director, National Association of Social Workers  
Ruben Bonilla, Jr.,  
President, League of United Latin American Citizens  
Don Bonker,  
Congressman (D-Washington)  
Kenneth J. Brown,  
President, Graphic Arts International Union, AFL-CIO  
John Carro,  
Justice Appellate Division, Supreme Court, State of New York  
Leonel J. Casillo,  
Formerly Commissioner, U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service  
Ernest Chanes,  
President, Consolidated Water Conditioning Company  
Judith Loeb Charn,  
Frances T. Farenthold,  
Formerly President, Wells College  
Donald M. Fraser,  
Mayor, City of Minneapolis  
Douglas A. Fraser,  
President, United Auto Workers  
Robert Garcia,  
Congressman (D-New York)  
Federico Gil,  
Director, Latin American Studies, University of North Carolina  
Patrick E. Gorman,  
Chairman of the Board, Amalgamated Meat Cutters & Butcher Workmen, AFL-CIO  
Michael Harrington,  
National Chairman, Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee  
Thomas R. Harkin,  
Congressman (D-Iowa)  
Dorothy I. Height,  
President, National Council of Negro Women  
Terry E. Herndon,  
Executive Director, National Education Association  
Karen Kennerly,  
Executive Secretary, PEN American Center  
Edward M. Lynch,  
International President, National Association of Broadcast Workers & Technicians, AFL-CIO  
Anthony Mazzocchi,  
Director of Health & Safety, Oil Chemical & Atomic Workers, AFL-CIO  
Saul H. Mendlovitz,  
President, Institute for World Order  
Charles A. Perlak, Jr.,  
President, Newspaper Guild, AFL-CIO  
Michael S. Pollak,  
Executive Director, American Psychological Association  
John Plank,  
Professor of Economics, University of Connecticut  
Thomas E. Quigley,  
Latin American Program Officer, U.S. Catholic Conference  
Rabbi Morton M. Rosenthal,  
Latin American Director, Anti-Defamation League  
Melvin Sabshin,  
Medical Director, American Psychiatric Association  
Freida Silver,  
Scholastic author  
Eugene L. Stockwell,  
Associate Director, Division of Overseas Ministries, National Council of Churches  
Carmen D. Votas,  
President, Inter-American Commission of Women  
Mrs. William L. Wipder,  
Director, Human Rights Office, National Council of Churches  
William W. Wipfinger,  
President, International Association of Machinists, AFL-CIO  
Jorge B. Wolfe,  
President, Florida International University  
erry Wurf,  
President, American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

April 20, 1981

Ray Jorgenson  
Rm. 7802  
Bureau of Human Rights and  
Humanitarian Affairs  
Department of State  
Washington D.C. 20520

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

Dear Mr. Jorgenson:

I am writing to you to express concern over the fate of an Argentine political prisoner, Mr. Crisanto Ripodas. Mr. Ripodas was arrested in October, 1974 for alleged "illicit associations" and remains in an Argentine prison, Unidad Carcelaria de Rawson, to this date.

In January of 1975, Judge Guillermo E. Mendoza initiated preliminary hearings on the case, but it was not until April of 1979 that a defense lawyer was permitted to represent Mr. Ripodas. The lawyer, Dr. Diez, flew to the prison to meet with his client only to be rudely turned away by the authorities. It is known that during this period the prisoner was in and out of solitary confinement, allegedly for "adhering to his Marxist principles and attempting to indoctrinate his fellow prisoners."

In December of 1979 he was finally tried and convicted, receiving the maximum penalty for the charge, seven years. Those years will have been served by this coming October. However, it is feared that he will not be released and that under PEN he will continue to be held.

Any information which the State Department has concerning the situation of this case would be very much appreciated. We are seriously concerned about the status of this case, as it seems to contain elements that lead one to the conclusion that justice has not been well served in this instance.

Sincerely,

Larry Birns  
Director

Lot 82D275  
Box 3541  
(2/17)